

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 04328 151539Z

62

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 04328

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CH, BE

SUBJECT: TINDEMANS' VISIT TO PRC

REF: BRUSSELS 4030

1. I SAW PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS YESTERDAY AND GOT A RUNDOWN ON HIS VISIT TO CHINA.

2. TINDEMANS SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN RECEIVED IN CHINA LIKE A KING. HIS RECEPTION COULD HAVE BEEN NO WARMER IF HE HAD BEEN THE PRIME MINISTER OF A FRIENDLY GREAT POWER. IN CONTRAST, THE CHINESE RECEPTION OF PRINCE ALBERT, THERE ON A TRADE MISSION, HAD BEEN MERELY PROPER.

3. MAO APPEARED OLD AND TIRED TO TINDEMANS. ALTHOUGH MAO'S MIND SEEMED TO BE ALERT, HE HAD TROUBLE SPEAKING. MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT WERE EVIDENT IN THE ROOM WHERE THEY MET.

4. CHOU RECEIVED TINDEMANS IN WHAT WAS SAID TO BE A HOSPITAL BUT THE ROOM IN WHICH THEY MET LOOKED LIKE A NORMAL RECEPTION ROOM. CHOU WAS VERY WELL INFORMED ON A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECT, INCLUDING DETAILS OF EUROPEAN ISSUES.

5. CHI TENG-KUEI PARTICIPATED IN THE MAO-TINDEMANS TALKS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 04328 151539Z

AND, WHEN THE MAO INTERVIEW WAS OVER, ASKED TINDEMANS TO RE-

MAIN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. TINDEMANS SAID THAT CHI LOOKED AND ACTED TOUGH AND HARD. TINDEMANS NOTED THAT CHI HAD BEEN EDUCATED IN RUSSIA, KNEW LITTLE ABOUT THE REST OF THE WORLD, AND WAS AN UNCOMPROMISING, FRIGHTENING MAN IN THE WORST RUSSIAN TRADITION.

6. MAO DELIVERED A FORTY-FIVE MINUTE SPEECH ON THE SOVIET THREAT TO EUROPE AND ON THE NEED FOR EUROPE TO BE STRONG MILITARILY. HE SAID THAT THE USSR, WITH ONLY ABOUT ONE MILLION TROOPS ON THE LONG SOVIET-CHINESE BORDER, WAS NO MEANCE TO CHINA. THE CHINESE DID NOT REFER TO THE SOVIET NUCLEAR CAPABILITY IN TALKING ABOUT THE SOVIET FORCES OF CONCERN TO CHINA. IN CONTRAST, THE SOVIETS HAD THREE TIMES MORE POWER DEPLOYED IN EUROPE. MAO SAID THAT BOTH SUPERPOWERS WANTED TO EXTEND THEIR HEGEMONY. CHINA IN CONTRAST WAS NO SUPERPOWER, DID NOT WANT TO BE ONE, AND DID NOT WANT HEGEMONY OVER OTHER COUNTRIES. CHOU AND CHI ALSO STRESSED THE SOVIET THREAT TO EUROPE AND PEDDLED THE STANDARD CHINESE LINE THAT THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS WILL LEAD TO WAR.

7. THE CHINESE LEADERS EMPHASIZED THE PRIMACY OF NATIONALISM IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE PASSING NATURE OF ARTIFICIAL DIVISIONS OF NATIONS. JUST AS VIETNAM HAS BEEN REUNITED, SO WILL KOREA AND CHINA. FURTHERMORE, THE CHINESE DID NOT EXPECT THE DIVISION OF GERMANY TO LAST.

8. THE CHINESE WERE CRITICAL OF BELGIUM'S ROLE IN KOREA. TINDEMANS EXPLAINED THE HARD-EARNED LESSON IN TWO WORLD WARS OF THE ESSENTIALITY OF COLLECTIVE DEFENSE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UN TO SMALL COUNTRIES LIKE BELGIUM. IN RESPONSE TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, BELGIUM RESPONDED WITH TROOPS WHICH HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN REMOVED. TINDEMANS SAID THAT HIS EXPLANATION WAS MET WITH COMPLETE SILENCE.

9. THE CHINESE IN SPEAKING ABOUT KOREA EMPHASIZED THAT KOREA SHOULD AND WOULD BE REUNIFIED. WE ASKED WHETHER THE CHINESE HAD TALKED ABOUT PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OR REUNIFICATION WITHOUT QUALIFICATION. THE LATTER, TINDEMANS SAID. NOTE: THIS ACCOUNT IF DIFFERENT THAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE'S (BRUSSELS 4030). TINDEMANS ALSO INDICATED THAT KIM HAD BEEN IN CHINA AT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 04328 151539Z

THE SAME TIME AS TINDEMANS AND HAD ASKED THE CHINESE FOR ARMS.

10. TINDEMANS SAID THAT HE FOUND THE STATE OF CHINESE SOVIET RELATIONS BETTER THAN HE HAD ANTICIPATED AND CHINESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS WORSE THAN HE HAD EXPECTED. WHEN ASKED FOR PARTICULARS, THE ONLY EXAMPLE TINDEMANS CITED WAS THE CHINESE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION OF THE DIFFERENT FOREIGN POLICIES OF

SECRETARIES KISSINGER AND SCHLESINGER. THE CHINESE SAID THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S DETENTE POLICY WAS BASED ON THE WRONG ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS. THEY THOUGHT THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S APPRAISAL OF THE SOVIETS' CAPABILITIES AND INTENTIONS, AS CONTAINED IN HIS FEBRUARY REPORT TO CONGRESS, WAS MORE REALISTIC.

11. TINDEMANS SAID HE INTENDED TO WRITE SECRETARY KISSINGER WITH A FULL REPORT OF HIS TRIP TO CHINA. I ENCOURAGED HIM TO DO SO. FIRESTONE

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